

Cohasset Mariner

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As the Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising must be received by Monday at noon. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

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Editorials

Foster's Car

MBTA Director Robert Foster, who's not yet the darling of the Boston press, was embroiled in another controversy last week, this time over his \$7000 car that came equipped with a trailer hitch. It was bought with "T," i.e. public money.

The sharpshooters are off target this time. As a high-ranking official who is paid less than his peers in the private sector, Foster is as entitled to a state car as much as any other chief in the King Administration. And the trailer hitch is nothing to get apoplectic about.

This particular tempest in a teapot is interesting only because it points out that Foster, despite being the administration's principal advocate of public transportation, needs a state car to get to work. As a resident of the South Shore who contributes tax dollars to the ballooning MBTA deficit without receiving an iota of service in return, he is part of the unwilling expressway mob that chugs in and out of Boston everyday.

After a few months of chugging under the worst driving conditions in Massachusetts, he may be inclined to push harder for "T" service to the South Shore. And if that happens, his car with trailer hitch will wind up a drop in the bucket.

School Board Size

Cohasset voters would do well to favor the article in the town meeting warrant calling for a reduction in the size of the School Committee from six to five members.

Action by the committee has been hampered in the past by having six members when three-three ties have arisen and nothing can be done one way or the other.

When the committee is dealing with a multi-million dollar budget and making policies that affect all Cohasset public school children, it is imperative the board have more decisiveness built into its structure.

It's true that with a five-member committee that every third year only one seat is up for grabs, but that would seem to make little difference if the overall operating efficiency of the committee were to be improved by the change.

Congratulations To

Hoop Skippers

On Best Season Ever

Intrinsically Valuable Building

To the Editor:

On the premise that the Town Hall, as a partially preserved building, will meet mandatory safety and other requirements of the State Building Code, I would like to suggest that this intrinsically valuable and strategically located historic edifice continue as the home of our Town government. This is important to us and to future generations.

The decision we are facing is not peculiar to Cohasset. Many, in fact probably most, towns in New England have 19th or early 20th century town halls, post offices,

Letters

churches, libraries etc. Many of these structures were designed by leading architects, built by competent men with top grade materials and placed in strategic locations. As stated in a recent article, these buildings "express the best aspirations of our ancestors who built them and they are part of our continuity as a culture and as a nation."

Recycling should result in a completely modern interior

combined with the richness of an historic shell and in this way the result is the best of both worlds.

The key in this regard is to be constantly aware of the intrinsic value that we have and avoid the mistake of discarding that value under the guise of potentially greater efficiency.

Let us not overlook or minimize the irreplaceable values of such civic structures.

Prescott Thayer Cumner
 Border Street

Health Board Needs 3rd Member

To the Editor:

After 14 years of dedicated service to the Town of Cohasset, Rene Chiasson has decided not to run for reelection to the Board of Health. Rene has been an invaluable servant of the Town for the last 14 years — invaluable for his professional plumbing experience and invaluable for his practical insight into Board of Health matters. Dr. Stephen O'Connor and I will surely miss his very commonsense approaches to Board of Health problems.

At the time of this writing, I am given to understand that to date there have been no papers filed for nomination to his soon to-be-vacated posi-

tion. It is essential to the democratic workings of the Board of Health that we have a third member in order to present the diversification of ideas and cast that all important deciding vote.

Although the qualifications for election to this post is left entirely to the voters, I would suggest that the common working knowledge of a plumber or engineer would be an essential addition to the Board's present composition, i.e. two working physicians.

I would encourage any person who might have these qualifications, and who can devote every second and fourth Monday evening to civic responsi-

bilities, to get out and run for this position. It has been my experience that the members of the Board of Health and the Health Agent are a cooperative body, being in a position to assist the people of Cohasset, with an attitude that we are elected to serve the people and not to present obstacles to their plans.

To the person who feels he is qualified to fill this position, I can almost guarantee a very rewarding three-year experience, and if you are good, and if you are lucky, perhaps the voters will return you also for 14 years.

Sincerely,
 Roger A. Pompeo, M.D.
 Cohasset

Combine Gas & Plumbing Jobs

A suggestion that the positions of gas and plumbing inspector be performed by one person was logged at the Selectmen's meeting last week.

Building Inspector James Litchfield complained that gas inspector Nelson Patroia and plumbing inspector Charles Patroia failed to keep accurate accounts of inspections and that one of the men has been keeping records at his home. Litchfield said that he is responsible for the performance of these duties and that

inspection records should be kept in his office.

Litchfield also noted only six inspections have been taken since the beginning of the year and that one of the men is rarely in town while going to school. When asked by Selectman Mary Jeanette Murray if he was pleased with the job done by the present inspectors, Litchfield replied that he was not.

Assistant Building Inspector Donald Clark remarked, "You need two inspectors, but the same person should be

both the plumbing and gas inspector with an alternate to take over for the regular inspector.

Clark's comments met with approval, and Litchfield said he will check with the Patroia brothers to determine if they are still willing and available to handle the jobs. The Patrolias have failed to attend two meetings arranged to discuss the matter.

"If they don't have the time to put in with the new state requirements," Litchfield said, "I will attempt to have another arrangement made."

